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National Intelligence Topics

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Foreword

This document contains the National Intelligence Topics that were developed at my request from recommendations made by senior members of the US foreign policy community and concurred in by the Senior Interdepartmental Group—Intelligence as requirements and priorities for use by the intelligence agencies of the US Government.

There are two types of NITs. The Topics of Current Interest are intended to inform intelligence collectors and producers of the specific needs of senior policymakers for information and analysis in the near term—over the next nine to 12 months. The Topics of Continuing Interest provide the Intelligence Community with more general guidance on the issues that senior policymakers believe will be of greatest importance to US interests over the longer term.

The two lists of NITs do not specify all of the topics for collection and production for which the Intelligence Community is responsible. For the areas covered, however, the NITs of Continuing Interest provide the central guidance for the development of intelligence capabilities over the longer term and for the formulation of the Intelligence Community's catalogue of standing requirements categories and priorities that is issued as the attachment to DCID 1/2. Accordingly, the priority definitions indicated in each issuance of the attachment to DCID 1/2 equate with those of the NITs of Continuing Interest.



William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
June 1981

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